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The Hilltop 10-27-2008

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THE HILLTOP

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Monday, October 27, 2008

Monday's Notebook

CAMPUS

A BLACK MALE INITIATIVE HAS A GOAL TO GET BLACK MEN INTO COLLEGE. READ ABOUT ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE ENROLLMENT.

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MAYOR BLOOMBERG WANTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ANOTHER TERM DESPITE LAWS PREVENTING IT.

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Photo Courtesy Michael Simmons

The Bison fought hard against the Aggies to secure their first and only Conference win on Saturday but they fell one point shy of their goal.

Bison Almost Taste Victory Against North Carolina Aggies

BY: Staff Writer

Michael Ferguson scored with 9:15 remaining and Eric Houston converted the all-important extra point to give North Carolina A&T a hard-fought, 21-20 win over Howard University in a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference game at Aggie Stadium. It marked the second straight game that the Bison have lost by a point.

The win gave the Aggies (3-6 over-

all, 1-4 in the MEAC) their first conference win in over three years and snapped a 25-game conference losing streak. The Bison (1-6 overall, 0-4 in the MEAC) have dropped three in a row and are still looking for their first MEAC win of the year.

North Carolina A&T, under its new head interim head coach George Ragsdale, set the tone early when Ihsan Shaheed returned a Floyd Haigler pass 29 yards four minutes into the game to take a 7-0 lead.

Howard, which had problems on special teams all game long, helped set

up the Aggies' next score when Ferguson capped off a 70-yard drive with a three-yard blast to give his team a 14-0 lead.

The Bison responded when Haigler capitalized on an Aggie turnover with a 7-yard scramble. The conversion failed as Howard trailed 14-6 at the half.

Howard began to take control of the game defensively in the second half, forcing three North Carolina A&T turnovers. The Bison put together a 93-yard drive

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Grievance Filed Against HUSA Executive Branch

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Former Mr. Howard University has filed a grievance against HUSA's Executive Branch after HUSA president Nicholas Owen issued Executive Order 0001 to give recognized student organizations funding.

The grievance will be heard by the HUSA Policy Board on Oct. 28. According to Kellen Moore, the General Assembly will vote on the budget at a meeting scheduled for Nov. 5.

"Executive orders are given as a privilege to the HUSA President as a matter of emergency and necessity; organizational funding, or the lack thereof, may be considered inconvenient, but does not represent an emergency," said Williams, who is not a part of student government, in the grievance.

The order was signed due to the inability of the General Assembly to reach quorum during an Oct. 15 meeting that would have approved organizational funding for 112 recognized organizations on Howard's campus. After an Oct. 22 emergency meeting of the assembly was canceled, Owen signed the order the same day. The order automatically approved the funding without the consent of the General Assembly, but also stated funding would be reviewed by the assembly at a later date.

"Organizations' ability to spend the funds that they are allocated dictates the amount of funding that they will receive next year," said

Kellen Moore, HUSA vice-president. "Furthermore, giving organizations ample time to spend their funds promotes fiscal responsibility. We wanted to make sure that organizations can begin their school years."

Owen's issuance of the executive order violated the HUSA constitution, said Williams, former Mr. Howard University, in the grievance.

"Only imagine if the President of the United States was given the authority to pass his own budgets, completely usurping the authority of the United States Congress," Williams said in the grievance. "The need for organizational funding is dire; however, it must not be allowed that General Assembly's ineffectiveness grant free reign to the Executive Branch of HUSA."

Owen was unavailable for comment at press time. Article III, Section 1, Clause A, Item 10 of the HUSA constitution states, "[The president] shall use the executive power vested in him/her to uphold and support the Constitution and Bylaws of HUSA; shall enforce the rulings of the Policy Board; shall implement the legislation of the General Assembly, and pursue courses of action in the interest of the student body."

Edward Hill, chairman of the HUSA General Assembly, offered no comments regarding his stance on the position.

However, in a previous story with The Hilltop, Hill said, "I personally spoke with Nick Owen regarding the situation because the organizational funding needed to go out."

Offshore Drilling a Key Topic For Presidential Candidates

BY AMIRAH A. BEY
Contributing Writer

Seagulls huddle along the shore drenched in oil. They are flightless because the thick black oil renders their normally weightless bodies too heavy to fly.

When oil or offshore drilling is mentioned, images of injured animals and damaged marine infrastructure are the typical accompaniment.

Yet the cries from environmentalists have fallen on deaf ears as Congress allowed a ban on offshore drilling to quietly expire on Sept. 30.

"The lifting of the ban on drilling for oil and oil shale doesn't mean the end of the fight for clean energy, which Big Oil and its allies have exploited for their own gain," said Frances Beinecke, president of National Resources Defense Council in a press release.

"History has shown where there are oil rigs, there are oil spills," said Kristina Johnson, deputy press secretary of the Sierra Club. "Hurricane Katrina is a

prime example. Nine million gallons of oil were spilled. The impacts of oil spills are well known," she said.

Some may think the ban on offshore drilling, which dates back to the 1980s, is no longer relevant with today's struggling economy and high gas prices.

"Lifting these outdated bans is a long-overdue and crucial step toward American energy independence," said House Minority Leader John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) in statement.

"The only thing offshore drilling will do is help oil companies," Johnson said. "Is it worth it to sacrifice our coast just to add to the profits of Big Oil? This is not to help regular hard-working Americans."

Offshore drilling is touted by Republicans as a method of decreasing our dependence on foreign oil and lowering gas prices.

"Drill, baby, drill!" was the chant at the Republican National Convention in September and has followed presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain and Gov. alin on their campaign trails.

However, proponents and critics admit that positive results from offshore drilling, such as lowered gas prices and lowered foreign oil dependence, won't be realized until the year 2018.

"Even the Bush administration admits that drilling will do nothing to lower gas prices," Johnson said. "Gas prices won't lower for 10 years, and in that time we could do so much more to further the cause by investigating forms of alternate energy."

A 2004 study by the Energy Information Administration found that drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would trim the price of gas by 3.5 cents a gallon by 2027.

Miniscule changes in gas prices are not worth the price of offshore drilling, environmentalists claim. Many have given up hope in convincing President Bush and Congress.

"We look to the next Congress and a new president to reverse the course and deliver a clean, homegrown energy future," Beinecke said.

The candidates have given their



Photo courtesy of Devon Energy Corporation - MCT

Opponents of offshore drilling emphasize the negative effects that drilling has on the wildlife while proponents stress the long-term effects on gas prices.

opinions on offshore drilling and alternative forms of energy.

"We have proven oil reserves of at least 21 billion barrels in the United States. But a broad federal moratorium stands in the way of energy exploration and production," said McCain at a rally in Houston. "... I believe it is time for the Federal Government to lift these restrictions and to put our own reserves to use."

Some think presidential candidate

Sen. Barack Obama has altered his original position on the issue.

Obama claims his stance is the same, and he only wants the energy crisis to be wholly evaluated in addition to offshore drilling.

"What I will not do — and this has always been my position — is to support a plan that suggests this drilling is the answer to our energy problems," said Obama in a press conference at Cape Canaveral, while campaigning in Florida.

Tour Reveals Georgetown's Little-Known Black History

BY LEAH KIMBLE
Contributing Writer

Georgetown, one of Washington D.C.'s oldest and most affluent neighborhoods, has ties to a little-known African-American past.

A walking tour of "Black Georgetown" is offered by the National Parks Service to those interested in discovering Georgetown's tobacco plantations, slave labor and once-large population of free African Americans. Tours are every Saturday at 10 a.m. and are free.

The tour focuses on the 15-block

Herring Hill area, the heart of Georgetown's African-American community. It was named after the herring — a popular food — residents captured from Rock Creek Park.

One of the tour's stops is the Georgetown Station Post Office on 31st Street. According to NPS tour guide Nick Murray, it was originally a customs house. Slaves arriving from Africa and the Caribbean would live in the basement while awaiting work on a nearby tobacco plantation.

Murray also told the stories of Yarrow Mamout and Alfred Pope, two former slaves who were later freed by the

death of their masters nearly four decades apart — Yarrow in 1807 and Pope in 1850.

They later became wealthy businessmen in the Georgetown community. Pope was even chosen to bear witness to Congress in the debate as to whether Georgetown and Washington City should join as one.

By the late 19th to early 20th century, a prosperous African-American middle class lived in Herring Hill, which by this time was largely self-sufficient. Several black-owned businesses existed. Dr. Charles Marshall Jr. and Dr. Joseph N. Dodson, both graduates of Howard

University, were physicians there.

Marshall Jr., following his father, Dr. Charles Marshall Sr., maintained a bartering system with residents who could not afford to pay cash for medical care. He also serviced those living in alley dwellings, areas in which large amounts of people lived near each other on very small plots of land. For this and other reasons he was named "Mr. Georgetown."

Dodson offered free medical care to children in the area and mentored students of D.C. public schools. Joseph Dodson's house is Murray's favorite stop. He admired all Dodson did for the children of Herring Hill.

Mount Zion United Methodist Church on 29th Street is the oldest black church in D.C. and was possibly a stop on the Underground Railroad. It was the center of the community — a house of worship, a meeting place and even a school which served those of all ages, not just children.

Only three of the original families of Georgetown's Herring Hill community remain. The onset of gentrification, beginning around the 1930s, brought with it rising property values and soaring property taxes. The population, which was at one point teeming with diversity, has regained a new sense of uniformity.

New Name for Campus Police May Bring Change

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Is it campus police? Is it campus security? No, it's the Howard University Police Department.

Under the direction of Chief Leroy K. James of the Campus Police Department, the department will change its name to the Howard University Police Department to help amend its image among the officers, students, staff and faculty.

"We are a lot more than a security agency," James said. "Most of our officers are sworn officers, meaning that they can execute the full range of police power on Howard University property."

He continued, "One of the reasons we want to change the name of the police department is because we are known as campus police, campus security or just security. I want to make sure that we are known by one name providing many services."

James added, "We want to let people know that there are different levels of services that we provide. It's not just security."

Kourtney Johnson, a freshman fashion merchandising major, considers the department to be made up of police officers.

"They can do everything that a regular police officer can," she said. "If there is a crime, they can exercise the powers that a normal officer can."

However, Johnson said, "Before all the crimes happened, I thought of them as I would think of a high school guard. Now I feel that they have no choice but to act as police officers."

Obinna Mbah, a sophomore undecided major, sees the department as an unreliable source of security.

"I see them more as security guards because that is what they are," he said.



Photo Courtesy of HUPD

Chief Leroy K. James is working to change the name of the university's Campus Police Department to the Howard University Police Department. The change is geared to amending the department's image.

According to James, "My people need to know that they are more than guards. We have police officers here."

He said there is a morale aspect to the name change.

"When you are a police officer, you have this professionalism about you," James said. "There is more expected of you. I want the officers to realize that they are much more than a security guard."

James also believes that the name change will reinforce the university's existing partnership with Metropolitan Police Department, other police agencies and the city.

The Howard University Police Department (HUPD) will also undergo organizational changes as well, to solidify their transition.

"Organizationally, we are restructuring to provide more efficient services," James

said.

He will create different bureaus within HUPD to group officers and team members that handle the same situations, such as an investigation bureau.

The Campus Police Department will host its first Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) women's self defense class in Meridian Hill Hall lounge today. The classes will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. weekly on Mondays and Wednesday.

HUSA Works to Increase Low Black Male College Enrollment

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

The Howard University Student Association (HUSA) has commenced the Black Male Initiative to address the lingering question, where have all the Brothers gone?

"The Black Male Initiative is a committee of individuals that work to try to increase the male ratio in collegiate settings along with the retention state," said Alvin Staley, coordinator of the initiative.

"The purpose is to get them in college, period," said Staley, a sophomore political science major.

The issue has gained national attention. At a NAACP forum in July 2007, presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama said, "We have more work to do when more young black men languish in prison than attend colleges and universities across America. That's not just an African-American problem, that is an American problem that we have to solve."

An August 2003 Bureau of Justice statistic showed that 32 percent of black males can expect to spend time in prison over the course of their lifetime.

"And the idea that we can keep incarcerating and keep incarcerating, pretty soon we're not going to have a young African-American male population in America. They're all going to be in prison or dead. One of the two," said Senator John Kerry in an MTV/MySpace political forum in September of 2007.

Also, in 2006 the U.S. Census Bureau reported, "Blacks made up 41 percent of the nation's two million prison and jail inmates in 2006. Non-Hispanic whites made up 37 percent and Hispanics made up 19 percent."

The report continues, "Black students are more likely to attend segregated schools with high concentrations of poverty, less qualified teachers, lower expectations and a less demanding curriculum so it is hard to get accepted into college... Even if you are a high-achieving kid who beats the odds, you are less likely to have access to the kinds of courses that colleges are looking for... You basically have the criminalization of a whole community, particularly in some inner cities."

In 2008, HUSA has stepped in

ley said.

He continued, "With the economy failing and all the activities going on in the world, it is very important to have more educated African Americans in the workplace to make effective changes that will defeat these stereotypes that the black males carry on their backs."

According to Staley, "Society associates the black male now with prison cells, gangs and guns, robberies and a whole bunch of negative connotations that are not necessarily true.

White males do more of these things than the black males, but because of the way that the media portrays us it is not known so that stereotype slowly becomes the perception of the black man."

Sophomore health management major, DeAngelo Shears, volunteers with the initiative to help work with the motivation of high school students.

Shears' efforts derive from personal feelings produced by his childhood in Chicago.

"I wanted to be a role model for my little brother, that is what got me here," he said. "And outside of furthering my education, I did not want to see my mom struggle. I wanted to provide for my family."

Staley said, "I would like to see black males defined as successful additions to society providing for their families and being responsible."

Staley believes that he made it to Howard because he had his family behind him emphasizing the importance of a college education which motivates him to give other Black males the same chance he had.

"I would like to see black males defined as successful additions to society providing for their families and being responsible."

*- Alvin Staley,
coordinator of Black Male Initiative*

to try to counteract the trend by taking Howard students into the community and working with black male citizens.

The Black Male Initiative will focus on four areas: middle school students, high school students, students currently applying to college and leadership development.

"We're going to give them everything they need to get into college," Sta-

Chapel Recap



Bree Gant - Staff Photographer

Rev. Martin Espinosa delivered a message to the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel on Sunday about belonging to Jesus Christ.

BY TAYLOR SMITH
Contributing Writer

The dynamic rage, spiritually invoking talent of Howard's Gospel Choir, HGC, singing "The Blood" provided the chorus line and spiritual preparation for the message of Rev. Martin Espinosa.

Espinosa read from the sixth chapter of first Corinthians verses 9 to 11 and 18 to 20 for his sermon titled, "You aint your own."

Espinosa repeats this line a number of times explaining how we, humans, were bought with the blood of Jesus Christ and "every now and then we have to be reminded that we do not belong to ourselves."

Espinosa, also a real-estate investor, explained his message in an analogy of going to a hardware store.

While at the hardware store he noticed these Delta faucets, where prices were continually knocked down in order to "get rid of them", they were first \$100 then \$80 and finally \$46.

They became clearance items, "high-end products sold at low-end prices," deemed unwanted.

Humans, born in sin, ended up in what Espinosa called the "Devils Hardware store, Hell Depot."

Being sold below the cost of manufacturing until "investors, God and Jesus, offered to pay full price for clearance items [people]," purchased with the "blood" of Jesus in order to "live the life the song calls you live."

Then being saved from being marked down from sin and delivered to live lives to magnify the name of God.

Pulling from the ideology of psychologist William James, Espinosa said, "Humans have an instinct to belong, this need to belong can make you do crazy things."

He correlates this need with gangs, codependent relationships, even belonging to a corrupt church.

Espinosa added that "humans cannot own another human being or let one own you."

He said, "When you let someone own you, you open up yourself for them to oppress you."

Espinosa explained ownership is solely reserved to God. After Espinosa's father marked him down and the Catholic Church marked him down God was there saying, "when your mother and father forsakes you the Lord will take you up."

Reverend Espinosa is Senior Pastor and founder of the Ray of Hope Community Church in Nashville, Tenn.

Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, he received his early education in the Catholic school system.

He is the husband of Dr. Renita J. Weems, a writer, biblical scholar and national speaker.

They have one fifteen-year-old daughter named Savannah Nia, who is hoping to attend Howard University.

Have you gotten all the stories you need to pass your journalism class?

We'll see you at the Budget Meeting Sunday at 6 p.m.

Bison Woes Continue as They Drop Another Close Game

continued from FRONT, FOOTBALL

that was aided by some costly Aggie penalties. Ramon McElrathbey capped it off with a 54-yard sprint to the end zone. Howard went for a two point the conversion and after still another NC A&T penalty, Karlos Whitaker scored to tie the game at 14-all at the 7:09 mark of the third quarter.

The Bison took advantage on another Aggie mistake when Whitaker finished off a 55-yard drive with a two-yard plunge that gave his team the lead at 20-14 with 2:59 remaining in the third period. The conversion failed.

Neither team appeared to be able to close the deal until NC A&T put together what would ultimately be the game-winning drive. Ferguson capped it off with a four-yard run up the middle.

Houston then tacked on the conversion kick and that was all the Aggies would need.

The Bison had two more opportunities but failed to convert as North Carolina A&T secured the



Photo Courtesy Michael Simmons

The Bison will play Norfolk State on Saturday in hopes of their first MEAC win.

win and ended the long drought.

Ferguson finished with 52 yards on 23 carries and two TDs while Nigel Tomlin led all rushers with 69 yards on 14 carries.

McElrathbey led Howard with 54 yards and a TD and Whittaker chipped in with 42 yards and a TD. Haigler, who came into the game leading the MEAC in passing was held to a season low 121 yards on

20-of-37 passing and two interceptions. Junior wide receiver Brandon Sherman had a fine outing for Howard with 8 receptions for 57 yards.

Howard will be looking to get its first MEAC win when it hosts Norfolk State on Saturday at 1 p.m. in Greene Stadium while the Aggies travel to Daytona Beach, FL to take on the Wildcats of Bethune-Cookman at 4 p.m.

The Office of the Dean of the Chapel, the Religious Fellowship Council, the Interfaith Fellows and the Graduate School would like to wish the Howard University community a happy Diwali.

Diwali is a major Indian celebration known as the Festival of Lights. It is observed by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs. People adorn their homes with earthen, candle or electric lights and exchange sweets and gifts and blow firecrackers to celebrate the victory of good over evil in humanity.

This year Diwali is Tuesday, October 28, 2008.



Photo Courtesy Michael Simmons

The LAST Hilltop 101 session of this semester will be this Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Location: TBA

Email hilltopmanager@gmail.com to RSVP.

Include "Hilltop 101" in the subject line.



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ON CAMPUS
Wednesday, October 29

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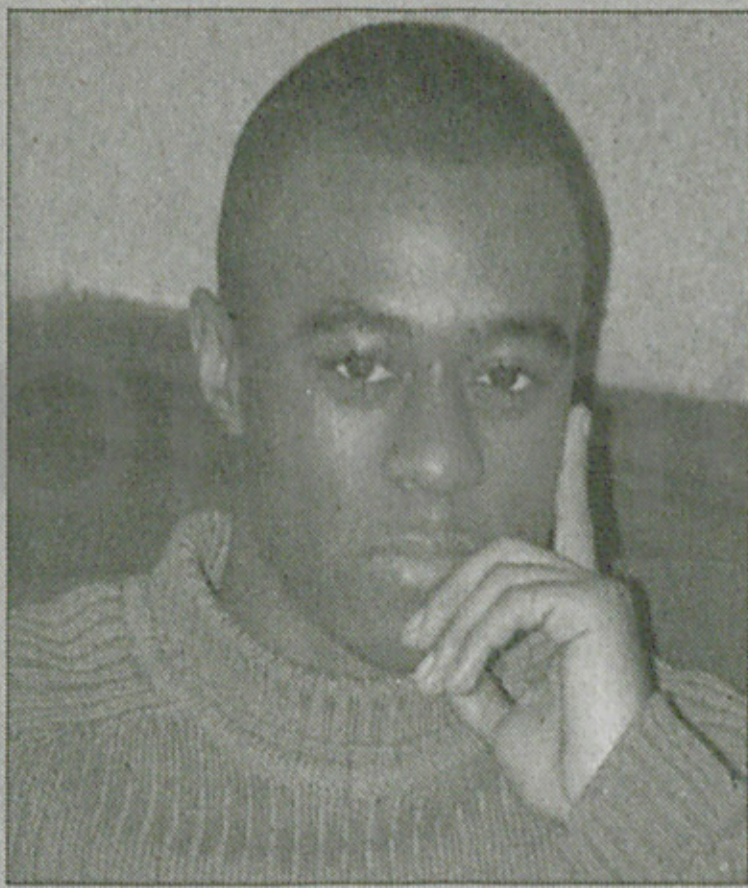
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Time for a Reality Check



BY EDWARD WILLIAMS
Contributing Columnist

Light blue or navy curtains in the oval office is the question Michelle Obama is asking Sen. Barack Obama this week. An election appears to not have been this one-sided since the Carter-Reagan election of 1980, where Reagan, a former governor of California, won all but five states.

I'm sure there's no need to remind you how those presidential years turned out for the African-American community. Which leads me to the real discussion at hand: If Obama becomes president, will your life really be any better off than if McCain wins? I know this is a tense time to be asking such a pivotal question, but I believe it's a long overdue discussion.

On January 20, 2009, whether McCain or Obama is inaugurated, we will still be at war, the unemployment rate will still be rising, the credit crisis will likely still be worsening, home foreclosures will still be breaking records, and college students will still be garnering more than a fair share of debt.

This is not to say the differences in McCain and Obama's policies don't exist or lack importance, but it is to say that our next president will not be a god nor will he be able to calm the fears of a frantic nation.

No matter who becomes president, it will be at least two, maybe five or 10 years before the true effects of their policies are realized. So, what does this mean for you eight days from now, as you cheerfully walk into the election booth, many for the first time? Well, I guess it depends on where you see yourself 10 years from now.

If 10 years from now you plan to be making more than \$250,000 a year, maybe owning a Fortune 500 company, or having a sizable stock investment, then you might want to cast your vote for Sen. McCain, as most of his economic policies are tailored toward ensuring that those persons meeting any of these requirements are able to hold on to the wealth that they have garnered.

On the other hand, if you plan to be making less than \$250,000 a year, working for an employer who can't afford to provide health insurance, or still in college, then Sen. Obama is your guy.

I would be willing to say with unwavering assurance that most Howard University students plan to be in the former rather than the latter situation. That would then mean that most Howard students should be voting for Sen. McCain, so why is it that Sen. Obama has such an overwhelming sense of support from Howard University students.

Dare I cite a case of racial allegiance (that's the nice way of saying what we would call overt racism if a white American publicly stated that they were voting for McCain because he's white)?

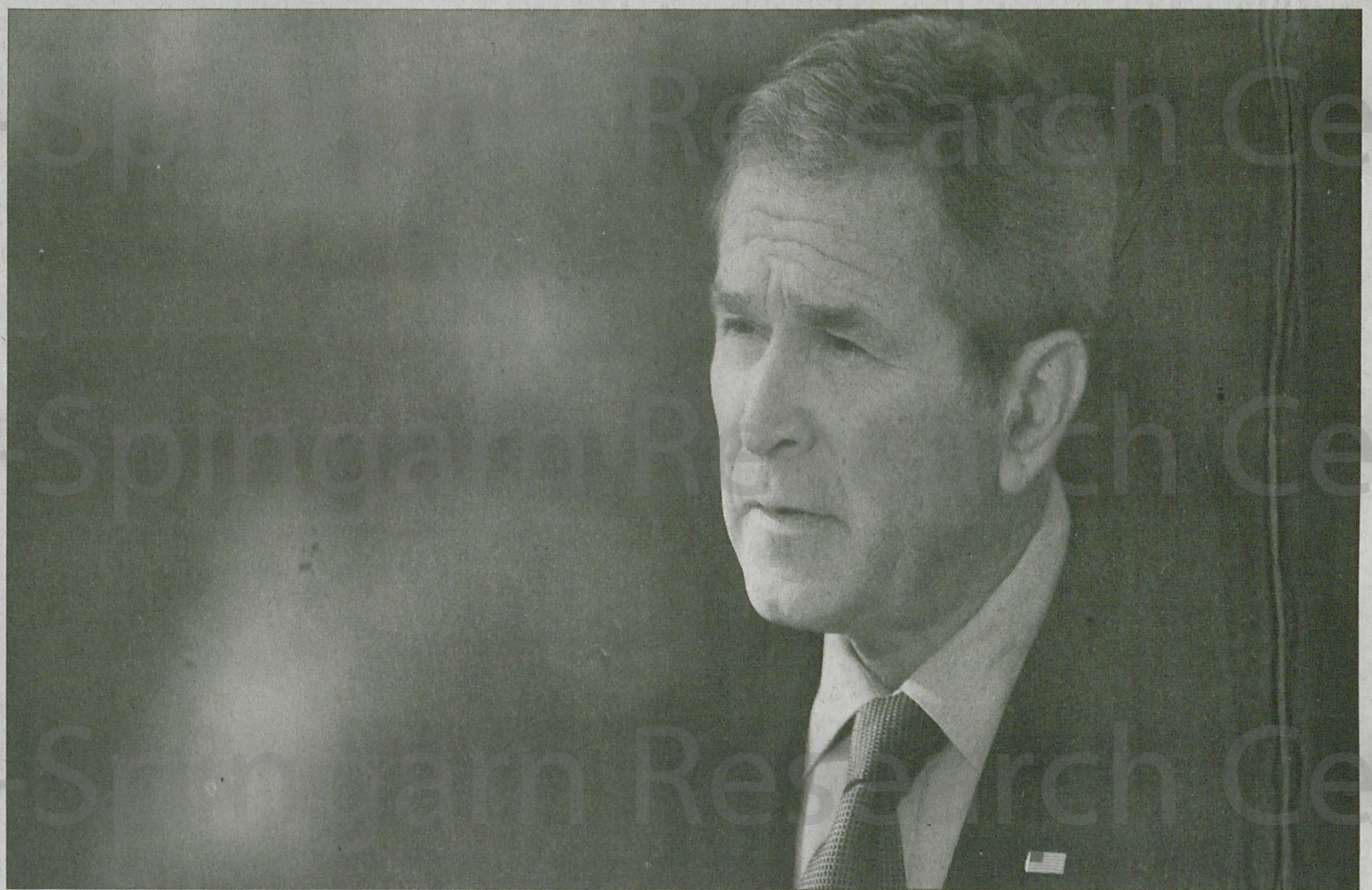
Instead of immersing myself in a debate over the shallowness and blind loyalty of some black voters, I will instead suggest a more justified and less controversial alternative.

Perhaps the avid support for Sen. Obama is based on the reality that no matter where we find ourselves in 10 years, there will still be Americans in need of the social reform which Obama is advocating and instead of voting selfishly, we are voting for those who will still be in need.

In my heart and mind I genuinely want to believe that after careful consideration and deep intellectual thought America has come to the conclusion that Obama is the right man to lead the nation (at least that's what the polls say). But there's something tugging within me that genuinely believes that America is setting itself up for an upset, not because we're going to pick the wrong man, but because we're going to hold whichever man to unreasonable expectations.

All I ask is that before you walk in the voting booth and even after you step out, give yourself a stern reality check.

Movie 'W.' Reinforces Public Opinion



President George W. Bush makes a statement on the economy in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, D.C. Oliver Stone recently produced a satire of the president's life. The movie follows Bush throughout his life and shows the mishaps that got him to his position.

BY DANIELLE HANKS
Contributing Writer

One of the most controversial figures of the 21st century is now portrayed in a movie showing theater audiences the path that led to his current position as president.

Although George W. Bush is still in office and his story is not yet finished, director Oliver Stone decided to take on the project and call it "W."

The theater was packed to capacity as viewers watched Josh Brolin, who was seen most recently in 2007's "American Gangster," star as President Bush. They watched as the film jumped back and forth between President Bush's younger college days to where he is today.

From his day pledging a fraternity at Yale University and being the best in the group for memorizing in-

formation to his running for president and memorizing responses for debate preparation, this film did not make President Bush seem like the best fit for commander in chief.

From beginning to end, the clearest mission the president had in the film was simply to gain the love and respect of his father. Although he had drinking problems and spent time in jail, he constantly fought to be better than his younger brother Jeb.

His father, George H.W. Bush, played by James Cromwell, seemed to be much more interested in Jeb's political career since George Jr. couldn't hold a job and had such a negative past. Yet, President Bush, being stubborn, decided to run for governor of Texas. After winning and becoming a born-again Christian, he received a calling and ran for president.

One moviegoer came into the

theater interested to see if this film would give him a different view on his president. Unfortunately, it did not.

"This movie portrayed a man with no experience who just got a stroke of luck," Norman Arlington said.

"It shows him as a clueless man who got everything in his life all because of his father," he continued. "He wouldn't have gotten into Yale or Harvard if his father wouldn't have pulled some strings. The film was uneven and thrown together."

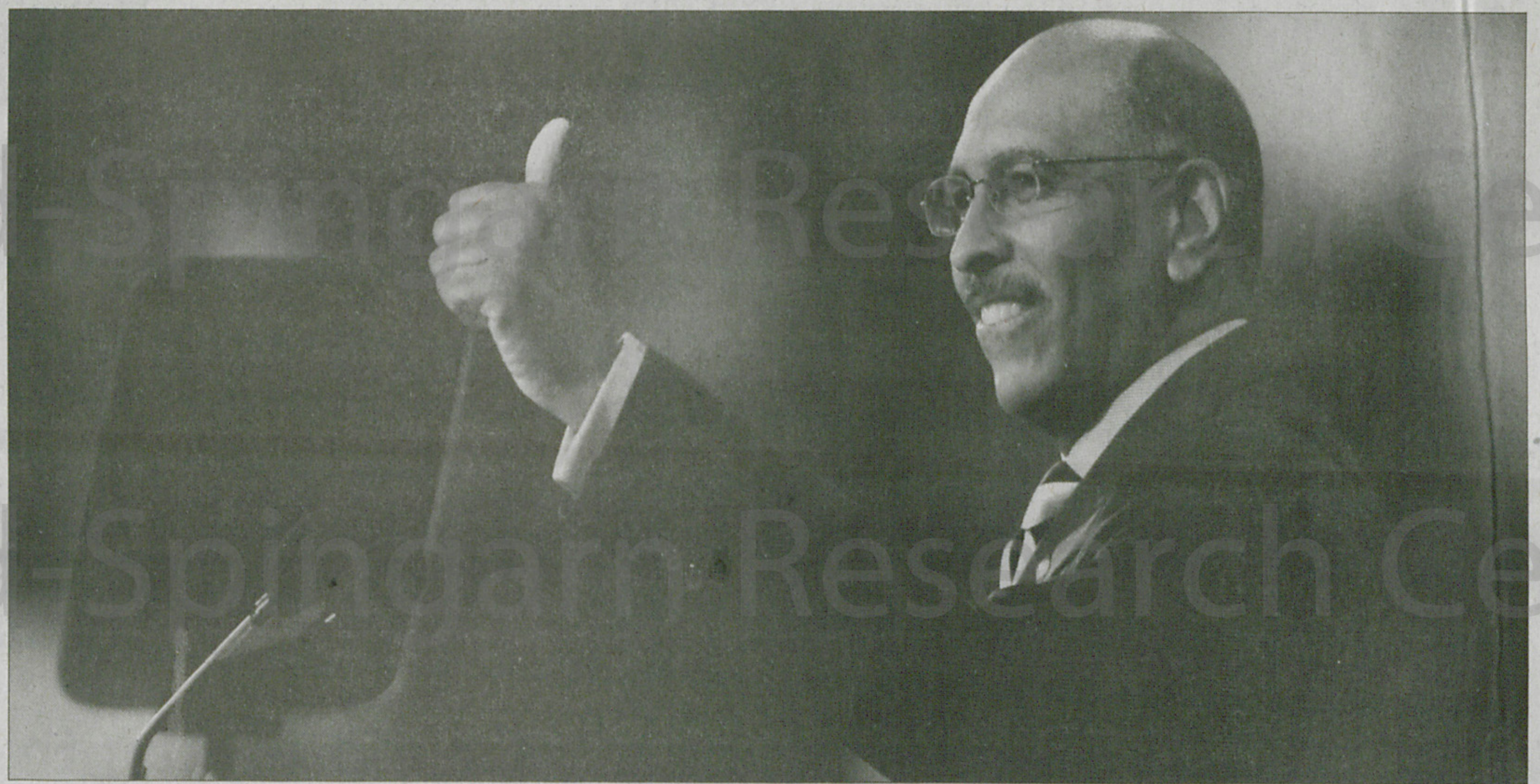
Innis Bugs couldn't help but laugh at the conclusion of the film.

"This movie was good. I mean, it didn't really have a point or a good ending, but I guess that makes sense because W. is still president," Bugs said. "It just proved that the guy's an idiot and shouldn't have won in the first place."

Laura Bush's character helped bring a softer side to President Bush's character. She plays the part of keeping him grounded and is almost acting as the angel on his shoulder while his dad acts as the devil on the opposite side, pushing him.

This movie does get quite a few laughs from beginning to end. From Bush's facial expressions and mannerisms to his stumbling on common sayings like, "Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice ... well, you can't fool me again!"

The ending of the movie does leave people guessing. After a running time of 2 hours and 11 minutes, the movie abruptly ends. It's possibly because George W. Bush is still in office and no one, not even director Oliver Stone, can predict what the president will do or say next.



GOPAC Chairman Michael Steele speaks during his appearance at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., on Sept. 3. Black Republicans are often shunned by the black community for supporting the Republican party. According to a survey by SurveyUSA, 75 percent of African Americans are voting for John McCain.

Blacks Feel the Heat for Supporting McCain

BY IZUNNA ENYINNAH
Contributing Writer

The 2008 election is one of the most historic presidential elections in United States history. Barack Obama is the first African American to receive the nomination from a large party in a presidential election.

Many would assume the entire African-American community would rally behind Senator Obama in the race to the White House, but there are some African Americans supporting Senator John McCain.

Black Republicans are torn between the man who could be the first African-American president of the United States and John McCain, the Republican candidate who shares many of their political views.

According to a SurveyUSA election, 75 percent of African Americans registered to vote in the state of Florida are voting for Barack Obama for presi-

dent and 22 percent are voting for Senator McCain.

For the state of Ohio, 85 percent of African-American voters are supporting Barack Obama and 13 percent are supporting John McCain.

Junior political science major Roy Montgomery is voting for McCain.

"I believe McCain is more experienced than Barack Obama," Montgomery said. He doesn't feel victimized or see himself as a sellout in the black community.

"I do not feel offended for voting for John McCain," Montgomery said.

"I don't see African Americans who are voting for John McCain as sell-outs," Laquia Burt said. She thinks that color should not play a role in the 2008 elections.

"It's not about voting for the color, it's about voting for the right person," Burt said.

Sophomore biology major Frank Fofie doesn't support any particular candidate. Fofie has not made a decision

on a candidate for this election but he strongly leans towards voting for McCain. Fofie does not see himself as a sellout in the black community because he doesn't believe in the black community — but the United States community.

"My community will have to make a choice that benefits the whole community," Fofie said.

"Color doesn't come in the picture when voting," said Brandon Cooper, a junior political science major. He is also voting for McCain for president. Cooper said that he gets victimized for his voting preference.

"My teachers, colleagues and friends try to make me feel like a sellout," Cooper said. He does not feel like a sellout; he feels like he is making the right choice.

"McCain policies are in line with my views," Cooper said. He also mentioned that people shouldn't judge him on who he's voting for. "Color shouldn't be determined in this election," Cooper said.

Dr. Gregory Carr, an associate professor of African-American studies, says there is only one reason for African Americans to vote for McCain. Carr feels the only reason African Americans are voting for McCain is because of their own prerogative.

"There is only one reason to vote for McCain, that would be his policies," Carr said.

Carr also said that African Americans would vote for John McCain because they feel a black man can't run the country.

"If you're supporting McCain not because of his policies, but because you don't think black people can run the country that's a problem," Carr said.

He said that black people who are voting for McCain think they're supporting the black community.

He thinks that black people who are voting Republican are individuals who are not trying to uplift the black race.

Let's Shift Our Attention to the Hardwood Floors of the NBA

BY MICHAEL BENJAMIN
Contributing Columnist

In less than two weeks, we will embark on an historic journey. The road will be filled with a myriad of twists and turns, some anticipated showdowns and even a few highlights. History's about to take place in 2008, and I'm glad to be one of many writers detailing this year's significance.

And I'm not just talking about the race between Barack Obama and John McCain.

Sure, on the night of Nov. 4, both presidential nominees will be squirming in their seats, waiting as the final ballots are counted in states like Ohio and Florida.

However, days before either man graces the podium to accept the presidency and lead America for the next four years, I'll be watching a jealous Stephon Marbury rock the pine with a towel draped over his shoulders as Chris Duhon runs an improved New York Knicks offense, waiting for his opportunity to throttle Mike D'Antoni as he paces the sidelines.

I can't wait to see Ernie Grunfeld, general manager of the Washington Wizards, watch his inept offense from the executive suite, refusing to believe that his \$111 million man, Gilbert Arenas, is slowly becoming this generation's version of Allan Houston.

Ready or not.... the NBA season is upon us.

Truthfully, you're not the only one that forgot about the NBA season. Somehow, I got blindsided worse than Nancy Kerrigan's knee at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in 1994. Honestly, I have no excuse. I was too busy trying to come to terms with the fact that Chicago's Kyle Orton (1,669 yards, 10 TD) is having a statistically better season than Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts (1,531 yards, 8 TD's). I'm not quite ready to live in a football world devoid of an operational Tom Brady, cursed with Marvin Harrison's "return to normalcy" and forced to watch Chad "Ocho Cinco" continue to play, though the name "Johnson" is still affixed to the back of his jersey.

I was tricked into believing that this NFL season would continue exactly where the Super Bowl left off in February. Instead, fans have been seduced into watching the mediocre Kerry Collins lead an undefeated but boring Titans team and vince as Emmitt Smith continues to get "debacled" and trip over multi-syllabic words.

(Emmitt, let's not dance around it any longer... you're just not cut out for life as an NFL analyst. We'll see you in Canton in about two years, buddy.) Let's just hope that some NBA action can ultimately save sports fans from watching this dreadful football season.

Since I'm already convinced that this season's going to be fantastic, I've decided to hand out a few awards in advance so you can enjoy the upcoming year.

Let's just agree to get rid of these nuisances before they ruin our enjoyment of basketball. Plus, now I can avoid giving irrational conclusions in this column, like suggesting a Knicks/Warriors final. I'm just saying...

LVP (Least Valuable Player): Vince "Wince" Carter. Did you know that Vince Carter posted a 21-6-5 clip last year? Wow.

Well, now that the Nets are officially gathering funds for the LeBron James sweepstakes in 2010, you can guarantee that Vince (now 30 years old) will shut it down and take fadeaway jumpers for the entire season. He's definitely a guy that I can see in another uniform by February's trade deadline.

Least Improved Player: Eddy Curry. When I heard that Eddy Curry snapped the training staff's medicine ball during a workout this off-season, I immediately doubled over with laughter. This is the guy that we expect to benefit from the implementation of the fast break offense? Great.

Before you cast your ballot in this historic election, basketball history will already be getting rewritten during this 2008-2009 season.

We're talking about the NBA, where amazing happens.

Hill Still Going Strong After 25 Years of Service to Howard Sports Department

BY TENI-OLA OGUNJOBI
Staff Writer

Maintaining and disseminating all statistical data for 19 sports and biographical information on players and coaches is not easy work, but someone has to do it.

For the past 25 years, Edward Hill Jr. has served as a sports information director for Howard's athletic program.

Under his guidance and training, the sports information staff handles game operations, statistical staffing, maintains the athletic Web site, takes pictures during games and sets up press meetings and interviews for coaches, student athletes and staff.

"We do a lot of event management, publicity and media relations for sporting events, and a variety of other things," said Assistant Director of Sports Information Chevonne Mansfield.

In addition to his role as the director, Mr. Hill works closely with the football and men's basketball teams. He travels with the teams making sure the Howard sports information department is represented and stats are accurately calculated.

"The most satisfying thing about my job is that I am able to travel around the world meeting colleagues and student athletes," Hill said.

During home games, he maintains the press box, watches the games for his stories and writes game recaps, runs stats at half-time and at the end of the game and arranges interviews between press and coaches or players.

Producing all publications that come from the athletic department is a major part of the sports information job. They put together the media guides, which requires writing all bios and compiling all stats. They must have public relations and journalist skills all-in-one.

"Anyone who knows this job knows that it's a lot of parts to it. It is good having someone as skilled and with as much expertise and knowledge as Mr. Hill," said junior sports management major and sports information student assistant Kara Adams.

Hill received his B.A. in Communicative Arts/Journalism from the University of the District of Columbia. His prior experience includes working as a staff writer for the Winston-Salem Chronicles, Black College Sports Review and as a news aide/freelance writer for the Washington Post.

"He's a great writer. He does it with such ease and is a seasoned professional," Mansfield said.

This Wilmington, N.C. native is an active member of the College Sports Information Directors of America and Black Sports Information Directors of America. He is active in the Washington, D.C. community where he serves as head coach and cofounder of the D.C. Warriors basketball program and as a counselor for the National Youth Sports Program. In 2005, CoSIDA gave him the Bob Kenworthy award for his community service outside the profession.

He has been instrumental in numerous careers started in Howard's sports information office including those of Bruce Speight, a PR/marketing assistant for the New York Giants and



Photo Courtesy of Howard University Sports Information Office

Ed Hill (right) has been working for Howard University for 25 years. He is currently the director of Howard University's Sports Information Office.

Teri Washington, a director of media relations for the Denver Nuggets.

"He's a good mentor. He has been doing this for a long time and has a lot of connections that can lead to networking possibilities. But he makes you work hard for what you want, which makes it that more rewarding in the end," Adams said.

After 25 years of serving Howard sports, Hill has met and developed relationships with various people in the sports information profession. His encounters with the good mentors who taught him a lot of what he knows, in addition to his longevity in the business, continues to help him be the best at what he does.

After 267 straight games, Hill has not missed a game since 1984 which serves as evidence to the record performance

Hill puts forth. He holds the fourth longest streak among all active sports information directors in the country.

"God has given me good health over the years. It's a wonderful thing when you are able to be good at something you love to do," Hill said.

Mr. Hill and the Howard athletics and sports information department have had a long-lasting relationship that has spanned over more than two decades. He credits the program for affording him his life's dreams. He was able to make his Pilgrimage to Mecca in 2006 and fulfill his passion for sports as the director of sports information.

"I love this place [Howard]. I've always had fun doing what I do, and as long as it's fun for me, I will continue to do it. It's a good life and I love it," Hill said.

Volleyball Team Heats Up the Court

BY COURTNEY MIMS
Contributing Writer

With at least a month left in the season, the volleyball team has already surpassed the expectations of the general population, having doubled the number of wins achieved last season.

At the completion of the 2007 season, the Lady Bison had won a total of five games with no out of conference wins.

The Lady Bison currently have 11 wins under their belt.

According to third year coach Orlando Larracuent, the team's major turn around was a result of this year's recruiting class.

"All four of the recruited freshmen are starters on the team," Coach Larracuent said.

Last season, Coach Larracuent did not have an opportunity to recruit a setter, as many top athletes chose to attend schools that already had an established reputation. This fact put the young team at a disadvantage.

This year's recruiting class brought in a trained setter, Gracie DeMicheles, which allowed Giselle Dartois to be used as a right-side hitter. "When I recruited her, [Giselle Dartois] I intended for her to be a dominant offensive player, but she ended up having to set," added

Larracuent.

Giselle Dartois now leads the team in a number of categories including total kills, kills per game, blocks and digs.

Nia Moore, sophomore, right-side hitter, believes that the team has made a turn around for a variety of reasons.

"Our team has been successful because our coach has a dream that we all believe in. He wants to rebuild the program, develop a team that is well rounded and can play all positions [on the court]; he wants us to be nationally recognized," Moore said. "He is a selfless coach that sacrifices his own time for the betterment of the team. I am excited to see his dream become a reality and something that I can cherish forever. He financed my college career and had confidence in my potential."

The team also has added confidence this season.

"For the first time in a very long time, we are winning games outside of our conference. We are gaining respect from various players and programs. Out of conference wins are really encouraging to us and let us know that we can contend with anyone in the MEAC," Moore said.

Moore believes that another element of the team's success is that they are as close as a family.

"We are all friends, we enjoy each other's company and do everything together," Moore said.

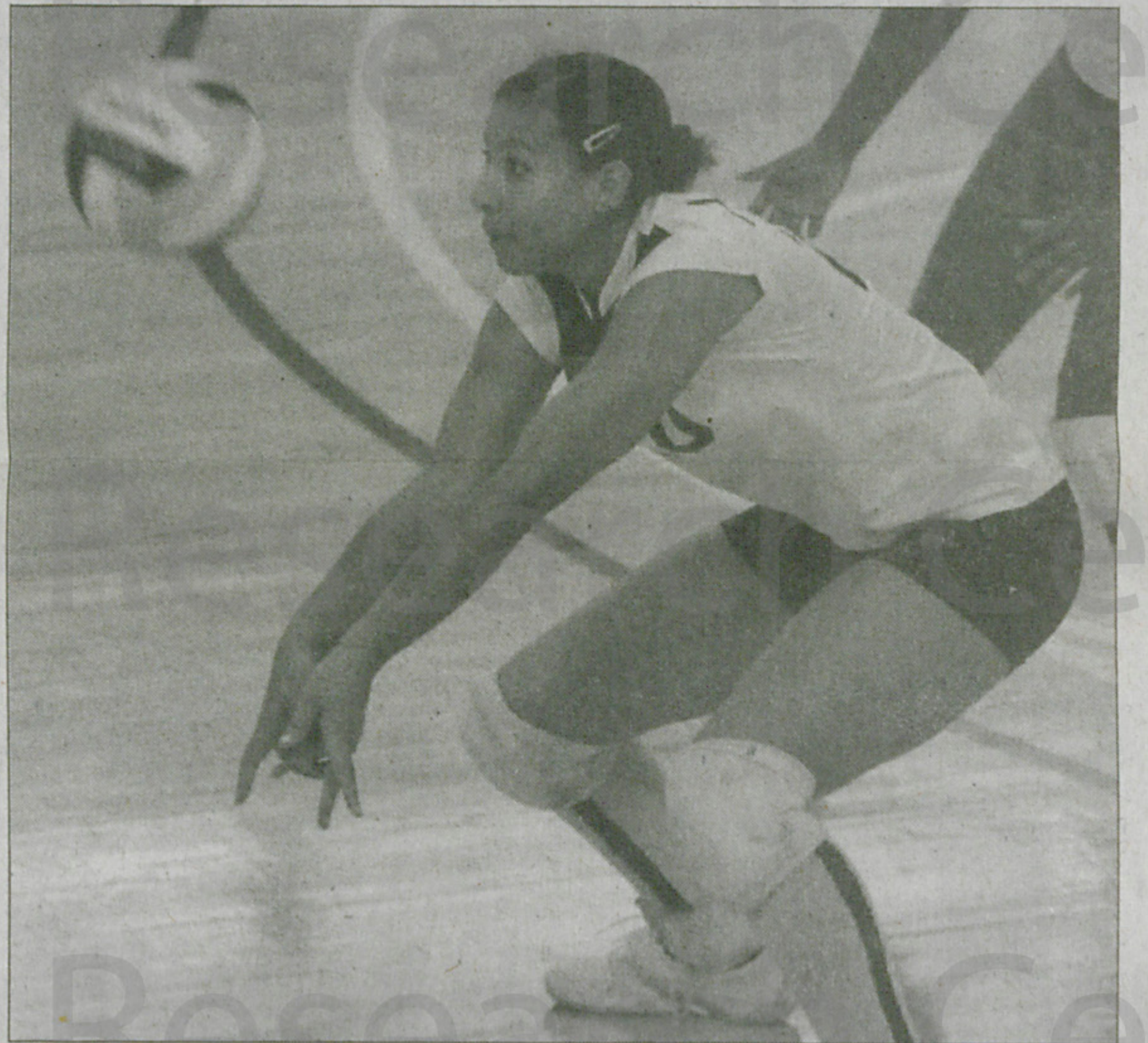


Photo Courtesy of Howard University Sports Information Office

Gazelle d'Artois (above) has been one of the most valuable players on the volleyball team all season. She is a sophomore hitter from Newhall, Calif.

According to Moore, the team has been playing well together and finding rotations that work best for the team.

"Gazelle Dartois, Gracie Demicheles, Gabrielle Martin and Taylor Johnson have each played key roles in our success this season along with others. [They have] shown that they can be accountable night in and night out," Moore said.

As the team continues to grow and improve collectively and individually, Coach Larracuent's dream of a top 20-ranked program might just come

true.

"It's a lofty but obtainable goal. I hope that in years to come with winning seasons, we will be able to recruit players who are in the top recruiting classes. With Howard's strong academic reputation and strong legacy, I believe we can be the Stanford of the East being recognized for academics as well as athletics," Larracuent said.

The volleyball team faces off against George Washington University at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28 in Burr Gymnasium.

Sports Trivia!
Who were the two players selected ahead of Michael Jordan in the 1984 NBA Draft?
Answer:
Sam Bowie
Hakeem Olajuwon and

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

October 27, 1985

Anthony Carter begins NFL streak of 100 consecutive games with a reception.

Courtesy of www.todayinsports.com

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Charles Metz III - Cartoonist

New York City Council Votes In Favor of Mayor Bloomberg

Last Thursday, the New York City Council voted for a term limit extension that would allow Mayor Michael Bloomberg to run for a third term. The old term limits law, which was overturned by the City Council, would have forced Bloomberg to leave office next year.

A more fair method of deciding on a term extension would have been to conduct a city-wide vote because the members of the City Council are biased and not representative of the entire population.

The extension was passed by a 29-22 vote and drastically changed the political process in New York. Bloomberg began to push for the passing of the extension because of the country's recent economic disasters, which the City Council feels requires continuity of the city's current leadership.

Although Mayor Bloomberg oversaw a fairly popular mayoral term, the extension does not allow

the other candidates to participate in a fair election.

Incumbents, particularly those who are well liked by the majority, are usually always re-elected, despite the capabilities of the other candidates.

Our View:
The term extension infringes on the right's of voters and the non-incumbent candidates.

Realistically, this amendment encourages a sort of monopoly that works against the wishes of the city's voters.

Bloomberg, who plans to spend \$80 million in order to be re-elected to a third term, admitted that he will have a tough time convincing voters that this

legislation is warranted. The term extension legislation will also allow elected officials and members of City Council to serve for three four-year terms.

Those against the bill criticize the billionaire mayor of encouraging legislation that is reflective of his monetary power and at odds with the wishes of the voters who are in support of the two-term limit.

Although Bloomberg's approval ratings remain around 70 percent, Anthony D. Weiner and William C. Thompson, Jr., the two leading Democratic candidates, insist that they continue their campaigns despite the recent changes in term length.

Analysts anticipate an upheaval that will most likely result in protest against the billionaire's recent triumph.

Perspective

Zetas Could Have Been Slighted at the Step Show

Isn't it funny how every year something about Homecoming goes wrong? Whether it is unstable weather, the crimes that occur or just simply an event being poorly planned, HU students always end up feeling slighted after it's all said and done.

This year, the event that needs to be discussed is the Homecoming Greek Step Show, from the gladiator intro that appeared unrehearsed and lead straight into the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Alpha Chapter's show, to the severely messed up audio, lighting and video in everyone's show.

Although each team provided an audio, lighting and video person alongside of a complete and detailed script, almost everyone's show still

seemed to be mutilated except for the two winners.

According to the audience and judges, had the intro and the Zeta's show been separated and everyone could see a clear distinction between the two scenes, the scoring would have been significantly different and the Zeta's most likely would have won the show. However, because the intro and the Zeta's show were merged, with their commercials being played in the WRONG place, the Zeta's did not walk away with the deserved title.

Additionally, the show lacked professionalism behind the scenes. Those who had a hand in the setup of the show were rude and uncompromising. When issues occurred because of their failure to plan correctly, no action

was taken to rectify the situation; the performers received more of an "oh well" attitude.

Unfortunately, although the step show was a few days ago, there still hasn't been any amends made or apologies offered to the different organizations.

In the future, the necessary steps should be taken to ensure a good show. Some of these could include choosing an unbiased staff with past experience, better organization and running a rehearsal with audio, lighting and video BEFORE the actual day of the step show. On a positive note, congratulations to the winners and those who worked extremely hard on their shows!

- Deyana Walker, senior musical theatre major

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

				6		8		
			3			7	4	
				2		6	9	
	5	9				4		
2		7	6		1	9		5
		6				2	7	
	9	3		1				
	1	5			8			
		2		9				

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Now in its 84th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

Have an Opinion?

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Chicago People's Union Presents:
Whats Really Good?
True Life: Drew Hall Edition
Monday, October 27 @ 7pm-8pm
Located in Drew Hall Lounge
True Life: Carver Hall Edition
Monday, October 27 @ 8pm-9pm
Located in Carver Hall Lounge
True Life: Annex-Quad Edition
Tuesday, October 28 @ 7-9
Location: The Annex Seminar Room

The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated invite you to participate in Howard University's "Most Likely to be President" Superlative. Donations for your favorite candidate will be accepted in the lower level of Blackburn Center October 28th, 29th & 30th from 11:00am to 3:00pm. & Politicall: "Pan-Africanism: Am I My Sister's Keeper?" Tuesday 8:00pm Blackburn Center.

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Senior Portraits are \$20

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Do you want to go to Law School? Don't know how to get there?
2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Pre-Law Conference
Wednesday, October 29th Blackburn Center 9am-4pm

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Monday, October 27, 2008 6:00pm Blackburn Ballroom

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Mon- Rags to Riches Blackburn Gallery Lounge 7pm
Tues- Raised Fist: The Collective Power & Battle of Blacks in America panel discussion Blackburn Auditorium 6pm
Wed- The Golden Rule: Charm School Blackburn Auditorium 7pm
Thurs- Crucial Conflict: The Black American Soundtrack Blackburn Forum 7pm

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Meridian Hall Lounge 7pm
October 29
What's Your Status: AIDS Testing / STD talk
Blackburn Reading Lounge 7pm
October 30
Unlocked Discovering the Inner Truths of your Thoughts and Emotion: Mental Health Discussion
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What To Do @ HU



THE DAY YOU MAKE HISTORY

In just eight days, Americans will elect either the first African-American president or the first woman vice president. Renowned scholar and author Ronald Walters, Ph.D., director of the African American Leadership Institute and a professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland, will slice and dice the dynamics of the race. Walters formerly served as professor and chair of the political science department at Howard. **Wed, 6 p.m., Blackburn Center, Forum. Free**

A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE ISLANDS

The Caribbean is a lot more than wind-swept beaches and azure seas. And nobody explains it better than Jamaica's Erna Brodber, cultural historian, social activist, scholar and important figure in Caribbean literature. Brodber, who is currently researching African-American/

African-Caribbean relations from 1782-1944, will discuss her novels, as well as her legendary research work in oral history, sociology and anthropological psychiatry. Brodber lectures internationally on issues such as black consciousness, emancipation, post-colonial feminist thought and the legacies of black writers. **Fri, Founders Library, Rm. 300. Free**

EXPLORING THE BLACK MARKET



Wade through jewelry, sportswear, college chic and designer eyeglasses, or shop for printing services, marketing and event planning professionals or textbook resellers as you enter the world of the Black Marketplace, a twice-monthly romp through the works and services of Howard students, faculty and alumni. **Fri, Noon to 5 p.m., Blackburn Center, outside of the Punchout. Free, but bring your wallet**

BOO!!!

Fright week is upon us. Drop into the Office of Student Activities for some sweet fall treats. Costumes not required, but those with them will be photographed and featured on the Student Activities Web site. **Fri, 3 p.m., Blackburn, Ste. 117. Free**



JASON & THE JIGSAW KILLER

It's the annual Halloween Masquerade Ball, when the freaks -- no, not those freaks -- reveal themselves in all their playful horror and gore. It's a night of music, courtesy of WHBC DJ Ja-Hi, dancing and the fun of dressing weird. For this one, don't leave home without your costume and Howard ID. You can't get in without them. **Fri, 7 p.m., Rooftop, Undergrad Library. Free**

THE PRESIDENT AS PREACHER

Howard's new president, Sidney Ribeau, has assumed numerous hats in his brief tenure at the university. Now, students, faculty and staff get a chance to see another side of him as he takes the pulpit to deliver a Sunday sermon. **Sun, 11 a.m., Andrew Rankin Chapel. Free**



HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Office of University Communications

For more of What To Do @ HU, visit www.howard.edu, and go to the iLab to secure your howard.edu email address.